CRITICAL STUDY OF INDIA-PAKISTAN RELATIONSHIP AND IT'S IMPACT ON SOUTH ASIAN SOLIDARITY SINCE 2008 TO 2022

A SYNOPSIS

SUBMITTED TO

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

RANCHI UNIVERSITY(RANCHI, JHARKHAND)

Under Supervisor

DR DHIRENDRA TRIPATHI

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science

Ranchi University

Submitted By

RAJNISH KUMAR

UGC NET JRF

ROLL-DL01656609

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(1)STATE OF THE ART

I dream of a day, while retaining our respective national identities, one can have breakfast in Amritsar, lunch in Lahore and dinner in Kabul. That is how my forefathers lived. That is how I want our grandchildren to live – Former PM, Manmohan Singh in 2007

The regional integration of Europe has transformed the landscape of Europe from the playground for battlefields to region of peace and prosperity. However that integration is nowhere in sight when it comes to region of South Asia. South Asia is a compact unit, of subcontinental proportions but occupying an easily identifiable geographical space, enjoying a broad cultural unity and a wide range of intra-regional economic complementarities. South Asia encompasses eight independent sovereign countries—Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka—which dominate the northern half of the Indian Ocean. There were mighty empires in its history that straddled the subcontinent, and the experience of colonialism more recently reinforced the legacy of interconnectedness and affinity. Then came the trauma of partition, the growth of assertive nationalism, the drift away from democratic freedoms in some countries of the neighbourhood and the impact of global strategic and ideological rivalries, turning the subcontinent into a **region of division and conflict.** It is said that barring Middle East, South Asia is least integrated today.

India and Pakistan are two biggest nations of South Asia. Despite having shared history and culture, relations between these two countries today have reached dead end. Strained relationship between these two major countries has direct repercussions on South Asian solidarity as well. South Asia forms the innermost circle of India as per **Kautilya's** Mandal theory, which gives South Asia a preeminent position in Indian foreign policy making. This research will try to critically analyse the nature of relationship between India and Pakistan and its impact on emergence of South Asian solidarity. The time period of the research will be from 2008 to present times. This study aims to identify those areas where both the neighbours can construct bilateral cooperation under the SAARC to address the controversial issues, which may repel hostilities and facilitate the two states to enhance cooperation for development and strengthen friendship and understanding between their people .

The idea of **South Asian Solidarity** was discussed as far back as in Asian Relations Conference which was held in Delhi months before India and Pakistan got their independence. However because of the horrors of partition, domestic politics and superpower rivalries, the solidarity was never realised, instead India and Pak had 3 wars in 1948, 1965 and 1971. 1971 had far reaching consequences as it changed the map of South Asia. In the aftermath of USSR invasion of Russia, there was renewed interest towards cooperation. In 1983 the foreign ministers of all

South Asian Countries but Afghanistan made the modest beginning by launching **Integrated Program of Action** by agreeing over 5 areas of cooperation- Agriculture, Rural Development, Telecommunications, Meteorology and Health & Population Activities. SAARC i.e. South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation was established in 1985 with Kathmandu being its Secretariat.

The hostile relationship between 2 pivot States of South Asia had adverse consequences for South Asian integration. There has been a vicious cycle where hostility breeds suspicion and suspicion reinforces hostility. The 19th SAARC summit scheduled in Islamabad in 2016 was cancelled because of the boycott call given by India in response to Uri attack. India has repeatedly mentioned that 'talks and terror cannot go together'. After that even the slow movement of SAARC has got stalled. Very recently, the meeting of SAARC foreign ministers had to be cancelled because of divergence with respect to representation of Afghan. According to the **World Bank report, I**ntra SAARC trade value is **just $23 billion out of the** potential worth $**67 billion**. It can be said that though neighbours need to be connected, SAARC has remained a '**Jammed vehicle'** which is unable to connect them.

(2)PROBLEM TO BE INVESTIGATED

The concerned work seeks to address the following question-

1.How the India -Pakistan relationship since 2008 in terms of Political, military, economic and strategic?

2.What are the challenges and opportunity in South Asian integration in 21st century?

3.How has India responded the new challenges and opportunity in the South Asian region?

(3) OBJECTIVE OF THE INVESTIGATION AND MOTIVATION

1. To study the relationship between India – Pakistan since 2008 to 2022

2. To study the impact of their relationship over South Asian Solidarity

3. To understand the challenges and opportunities in South Asian integration

4. To study the Indian approach in South Asia Since 2008

5. To determine the influence of India Pakistan relationship on the working of SAARC since 2008

(4) RESEARCH HYPOTHESIS OR RESEARCH QUESTION

1.Terrorism is a major obstacle in South Asia Cooperation

2.India plays an important role to strengthen South Asian Solidarity

3.The relation between India and Pakistan determine the South Asian Cooperation

(5) RESEARCH DESIGN AND METHODOLOGY

Design of the study-The nature of the study is both **qualitative** and **analytical** and **principle method is descriptive research**. . The methodology would be also analytical focusing on dynamics of India-Pak relationship. It would also be describing in its description of SAARC's challenges and prospects. The research would attempt to make suggestions for better cooperation among SAARC Countries through, inter alia, the comparative analysis with EU and ASEAN

6) SOURCE OF DATA AND TOOLS TO BE USED IN COLLECTION OF DATA

Tools and Technique-This study will be based on the secondary sources . The secondary sources contains **MOD** and **MEA reports.** The annual MEA reports reflect an interagency process through which India's objectives are delineated with respect to its neighbourhood. The MOD reports, not only outline the proverbial "wish list" of India's defence services but also clearly articulate the security environment in which New Delhi finds itself. I will also refers to various **reports and publications of national and international institute's** , various research journals, magazines, international affairs websites , international media inputs and **documentaries** etc.

(7)ANALYSIS OF DATA

The data will be analysed and correlation with different sources of information to get comprehensive perspective

(8) SIGNIFICANCE OF THE STUDY

India -Pakistan relationship is important for the regional peace and stability. The study will help in understanding the opportunities and challenges for both as a nation and for the South Asia peace and stability South Asia is one of the least integrated and connected regions of the world. Intra-regional trade is around five per cent of the total trade of South Asian countries. This lack of connectivity and integration has long been accepted as one of the biggest contributors to the sub-optimal utilisation of the region's economic potential

(9) ITS RELEVANCE TO THE PRESENT DAY PROBLEM AND NEED TO THE SOCIETY

The scope of the study would be broad based taking into account the issues at a multifaceted level from geostrategic, geo-economics to the geopolitics level. The scope of the study would encompass the following:

(a)Understanding the strategic,geoeconomic, geopolitical relationship between India Pakistan since 2008

(b) Existing dynamics of the region in view of the current alliances, partnerships and multilateral Structures

(c) Help in understanding the opportunities and challenges in South Asian integration

(10) CONTRIBUTION TO THE EXISTING KNOWLEDGE

Dilip Hiro in his book 'The Longest August: The Unflinching Rivalry between India and Pakistan, 2015' has argued that India-Pak relation is a tale of fatal miscalculations, antagonism and paranoia of elites. The history of partition looms like Banquo's ghost not only over India-Pakistan but also over the entire South Asia.

"Wall At Wagah: India-Pakistan Relations by Kuldip Nayar,2003" Kuldip Nayar is a renowned journalist, who has held several prestigious positions in newspapers like The Statesman, The Indian Express besides heading the United News of India (UN), a premier news agency, was India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom and correspondent of The Times, London, for 25 years. This is a monumental work, spread over five decades and more, from August 1947 to 2003. It is a history of wars and accords, of enmity and amity, of failures and successes. This could be use as the basic book about what has gone wrong between India and Pakistan

South Asian Security: 21st Century Discourses, 2011 by Sagarika Dutt (Editor) Alok Bansal (Editor):- The South Asian security complex refers to security interdependencies between the states in the region and also includes the effect that powerful external actors, such as China, the US, and Russia, and geopolitical interests have on regional dynamics. This book focuses on the national securities of several South Asian countries to discuss a range of issues related to South Asian security. The book makes a distinction between traditional and non-traditional security. While state-centric approaches such as bilateral relations between India and Pakistan are considered to be traditional realist approaches to security, the promotion of economic, environmental, and human security reflect global concerns, liberal theories, and cosmopolitan values. The book goes beyond traditional security issues to reflect the changing security agenda in South Asia in the twenty-first century and is a useful contribution to studies on South Asian Politics and Security Studies.

Hussain Haqqani in his work 'Why Can't we be just friends, 2016', the former ambassador of Pakistan to USA has reflected upon idea of nationalism in Pakistan. He has blamed the deep psychological scars and suspicions for the sad state of affairs between India and Pakistan.

In 2019, addressing a meeting of South Asia foreign ministers in New York, Indian foreign minist**er S Jaishankar** had held terrorism as the major obstacle in the growth of South Asian cohesion. According to Jaishankar, elimination of terrorism in all its forms is a precondition not only for fruitful cooperation, but also for the very survival of the region itself.

Hostility: A diplomat's Diary on Pakistan – India Relations by Abdul Basit, 2021:- A former Pakistan High Commissioner to India writes a candid account of his posting, the Kashmir issue, and the politics of the foreign office. There are various layers of hostility in this candid book written by Abdul Basit, Pakistan's High Commissioner to India between 2014 and 2017. Hostility between India and Pakistan is, of course, a running theme of the book, but Basit also describes in rich detail the "hostility" within the top echelons of the Pakistani foreign office.

(11) FUTURE WORK

TENTATIVE CHAPTERISATION

Introduction

Chapter 1-India-Pakistan geopolitical implications on South Asian region since 2008

Chapter 2-The shadow of India Pakistan issues and conflicts on regional organization with reference of SAARC

Chapter 3- Indian approach to dealing with Pakistan since 2008 and engagement with other powers in the region in context of US-CHINA

Chapter 4- The Kartarpur Corridor -Cultural diplomacy between India and Pakistan and a way ahead for cultural integration in South Asia

Chapter 5-Climate Cooperation -can India Pakistan play important role in mitigating climate change in South Asian in 21st Century

CONCLUSION AND SUGGESTUONS

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